

Appl. No. 10/754,178
Reply to Office Action of April 16, 2007

Attorney Docket No. 2003-0250 / 24061.144
Customer No. 42717

REMARKS

As required by the PTO, Applicants are hereby making of record some recent telephone conferences that took place between the undersigned and PTO personnel. More specifically, in a prior Response filed on January 16, 2007, Applicants traversed the finality of a prior Office Action mailed on December 27, 2006. On February 7, 2007, the Examiner issued an Advisory Action indicating that the finality was considered proper and was being maintained. Thereafter, the undersigned discussed the finality with supervisory Examiner Bill Baumeister on February 21, 2007. On February 22, 2007, the undersigned discussed the present factual scenario with MPEP editor Magdalen Greenlief, who confirmed that finality was not proper in this factual scenario. The undersigned relayed this information to Examiner Baumeister on February 22. Following two subsequent telephone conferences with Examiner Baumeister on February 23 and March 6, Examiner Baumeister telephoned to indicate that the finality of the December 27 Office Action was being withdrawn. On April 12, 2007, Examiner Smith telephoned to confirm that the finality was being withdrawn, and to indicate that a new Office Action would be issued. In due course, the present Office Action was mailed on April 16, 2007.

Noted with appreciation is the indication in the present Office Action that Claims 1-26 are still considered to be allowable. Claims 27-32 were rejected in the Office Action. The foregoing amendments cancel Claims 27-32 without prejudice. Applicants reserve the right to file a continuing application that presents the subject matter of Claims 27-32 for further consideration on the merits. The only claims now remaining in the application are allowed Claims 1-26.

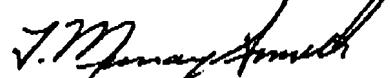
It is believed that all outstanding issues have been resolved, and that this application is now in condition for allowance. If there are any remaining issues, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned attorney at 972-739-8647, so that the issues can be promptly resolved. Otherwise, it is respectfully requested that this application be promptly allowed and passed to issue.

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Although Applicants believe that no fee is due in association with the filing of this paper, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee required by this paper, or to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 08-1394 of Haynes and Boone LLP.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: May 10, 2007

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Enclosures: None

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